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## **PENDRAGON: And Now Everybody To The Stage**

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This very classy limited edition triple disc box entitled "And Now Everybody to the Stage" features an 18 song 15 track DVD with bonus material to boot - two hundred and forty minutes total running time along with two audio discs containing one hundred and forty-six minutes (of the same material). Filmed and recorded on May 22, 2006 at the Wyspianski Theatre in Katowice Poland, this music from the "Believe 2006" tour finds the band rocking out with a harder edge.

For a group that is a cult favorite "And Now Everybody to the Stage" is an enormous package usually reserved for more commercial acts, the set including a four page booklet and eight panel fold-out box. The slick textured presentation is a follow-up to the 2002 DVD, "Live...At Last and More," taking things a step further. Drummer Fudge Smith is replaced here by Joe Crabtree, but few if any non-fans will notice as the music is as pristine and exotic as ever culminating in a tremendous version of "Am I Really Losing You?" The song is so sublime here it screams out FM radio hit, although that kind of creature is a rare bird in the new millennium.

Frontman/songwriter Nick Barrett is clearly enjoying himself re-exploring titles like "Nostradamus", "As Good As Gold", "Breaking The Spell" and "Masters Of Illusion", all found on the earlier DVD "Live at Last and More," only this time out the handsome and youthful Joe Crabtree adds some new energy to the venerable but aging group.

A bit heavier here in concert than on the retrospective "The History: 1984-2000," this deluxe treasure contains a band history, interview with Nick Barrett and other extras including "The Progumentary", a home video recording. There's also a regular DVD edition without the 2 audio discs

OLDER REVIEW OF CLEOPATRA RETROSPECTIVE  
1984-2000

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Review by Joe Viglione

An eminently listenable dozen tunes from Pendragon with a six-page booklet enclosed in a gorgeous foldout CD box, The History: 1984-2000 is a wonderful introduction to this storied ensemble for the uninitiated. This is not to be confused with the 1999 release Overture, 1984-1996, though some of the tracks do overlap — original versions of "The Voyager" and "Total Recall" are on both CDs while The History: 1984-2000 contains acoustic versions of "Paintbox" and "The King of the Castle" specially recorded for this compilation. Where Overture, 1984-1996 contained a live version of "The Black Knight" with the original found here, only completists need seek out both versions. But what The History: 1984-2000 reveals is that this "prog rock" band is actually more progressive folk. Yes, the aura and sometimes ostentatious style that characterize bands like Genesis and ELP are certainly noticeable, but more so are the stylish guitars and almost adult contemporary approach. The music is more enticing than Carl Palmer blasting audiences out of their seats with his fine music played at "11" — arena volume for 450-seat theaters. Pendragon can easily waltz into those same venues and mesmerize with these wonderful slices from their past. The nine tracks on

the disc are augmented by a video of "The Last Waltz" from their DVD Live...At Last and More. Extensive liner notes from Artur Chachlowski work better if you enlarge them at a copy center — the type is quite tiny, but the booklet is fine nonetheless. Where Ian Anderson dips into a variety of bags and is multidimensional (especially on his orchestrated live shows), Pendragon stay the course with their mix of Yes meets Aztec Two-Step, and that's quite all right.

#### Tracks

- 1 The Walls of Babylon Barrett 10:44
- 2 The Shadow Barrett 9:55
- 3 Total Recall Barrett, Gee 7:05
- 4 The Voyager Barrett 12:15
- 5 The Black Knight Barrett 9:58
- 6 And We'll Go Hunting Deer Barrett 7:14
- 7 Am I Really Losing You? Barrett 4:47
- 8 The King of the Castle [#] Barrett 4:43
- 9 Paintbox [#] Barrett 4:23
- 1 The Last Waltz [multimedia track] Barrett, Gee 5:18